

# Seeking Art in Central Europe

## Imperial Capitals—Vienna

A Prospectus



March 13 – March 23, 2025

# Welcome!

We are pleased to have you join us on what promises to be an exciting, fascinating, and rewarding excursion. This is the third time that we are offering such an art trip. Our previous two journeys were tremendous successes. We first concentrated our attention on the former East Germany. Then we went south to Munich and Salzburg. This time we'll head east to one of the most opulent capital cities in the world. For centuries Vienna served as the imperial capital of the Habsburg dynasty—a reign that lasted until the end of World War I. Since 1918 Vienna has served as the leading city of a territorially diminished but nevertheless culturally rich Austria. Some of the world's most valuable works of art are found in the city's museums, and the streets lead the visitor to one architectural gem after another. You'll explore those routes, and along the way, you'll find time to sketch and paint for your personal portfolios. You'll return home having seen some magnificent works of art, having undertaken new adventures, having produced some interesting works of your own, and having accumulated a treasury of valuable memories.



## Outbound Flight\*



**Depart** The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

**Arrive** Franz Josef Strauß International Airport, Munich, Germany

\*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.

# Day 1: From Munich to Vienna



After arriving at Franz Josef Strauß International Airport and proceeding through passport control and customs, we'll board the train for a leisurely ride to Vienna. The route along the northern edge of the Alps and through Austria's renowned wine-producing valley of the Wachau will provide a magnificent backdrop to the transition from Germany to Austria.



Upon arriving in Vienna, we'll check into our rooms, get our first taste of Austrian cuisine at dinner in a nearby gasthaus, and—because jet lag will be setting in by that time—call it a day.





# Day 2: Introduction to Vienna



We'll start the day with a walk along Vienna's Ringstraße (Ring Street), the most famous boulevard in the city. Built on the remnants of the medieval city wall, over the past two centuries the street has become the main thoroughfare for many of the capital's major buildings: the University of Vienna, the city hall, the Parliament, the Hofburg (the winter palace of the Habsburgs), the museums of natural history and of art, and more. This stroll will give a first impression of Vienna's grandeur.

After lunch we'll visit the Museum of the City of Vienna. This venue offers exhibits that trace the history of our host city from its earliest settlement up to the present day.

In the evening we'll take in a concert of classical music in Vienna's Charles Church.



Poster for the Thirteenth Exhibition of the artists of the Vienna Secession, 1902.



# Day 3: Otto Wagner's Vienna



A salon in the Otto Wagner villa, built 1886 to 1888.

We will spend the day familiarizing ourselves with the masterpieces of the leading architect of *fin-de-siècle* Vienna: Otto Wagner. The most distinguished representative of the *art nouveau* style of construction, Wagner produced works that can be found

throughout the city. We will visit five of those sites: the Otto Wagner villa, the church at Steinhof, the subway pavilions in Hietzing and on Karlsplatz, and the main building of the former Austrian Postal Savings Bank. As suggested by the existence of the subway pavilions, Wagner's work was not limited to traditional buildings such as residences and office buildings. He contributed to the face of Vienna by designing public areas, including features such as the railing along subway stops and accompanying lettering.

Details of St. Leopold's Church, designed by Otto Wagner, built 1904–1907.

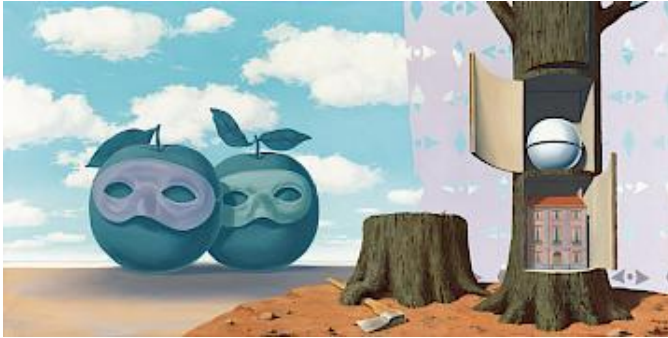




# Day 4: Museums Galore I

Vienna could never be accused of having a scarcity of museums, and today we'll visit two of the most renowned. The day starts with a trek to the Albertina, home to a collection of roughly a million works. Predominating in the collection are examples of modernist art: from impressionism and post-impressionism to German expressionism and the new objectivity (including works from Austria) to pieces from the Russian avant-garde. An extensive representation of works by Pablo

Picasso is a highlight of the collection.



René Magritte (1898-1967). *The Enchanted Spot*, 1953. Oil on canvas, 68 cm x 136 cm.



Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1828-2000), *Hundertwasserhaus*, Löwengasse façade, Vienna, completed 1985.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser is probably the most famous Austrian artist of the post-war era. From paintings to graphic designs to tapestries to distinctive architecture, Hundertwasser's interests and talents ran the gamut of artistic expression. In addition, his commitment to sound ecological principles pervaded all his work and his political engagement.

# Day 5: Museums Galore II



We'll begin the day with a stop at Vienna's Art History museum, one of the world's leading art museums. This edifice on the Ringstraße is the mirror image of the Museum of Natural History, which sits directly across Maria Theresa Plaza from the art museum. Notable works in the collection include Brueghel's *The Tower of Babel*, Vermeer's *The Art of Painting*, and Velasquez's *Infanta Margarita Teresa (1651-1673) in a Blue Dress*. In addition, we will be in Vienna at a time when a special exhibit will be presented. Most people don't think of coins when they talk of art, but this exhibit will illustrate the technique and accomplishments of court artists in depicting members of the imperial family on coins and medallions from roughly 1500 to 1918.



Pieter Brueghel the Elder (ca. 1526-1569), *The Tower of Babel*, 1563. Oil on wood panel, 114 cm x 155 cm.

Originally a warehouse for the many items needed to furnish the various imperial palaces and apartments, today it is a mixture of storehouse, workshop, office, and museum for a collection that traces the history of furniture from the baroque to the present day. Even film producers come calling when they need items to provide an authentic feel in a movie.

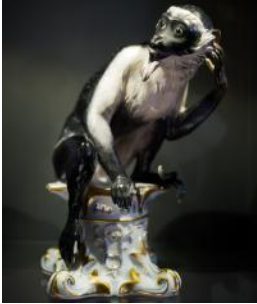
Josef Hoffman (1870-1956), *Sitzmaschine*, 1905. Beechwood and plywood, 46 in x 24 in x 34 in.





# Day 6: A Fine Cultural Mix

Although known in east Asia in one form or another for millennia, porcelain first came to Europeans' attention via *The Travels of Marco Polo* in the thirteenth century. We'll visit Vienna's Porcelain Manufactory Augarten to learn about the production of this valuable commodity and to view some exquisite representations of the craft.



Then we'll travel across town to Schönbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Habsburgs. The park and gardens offer a respite from the pressures of daily life and are a favorite spot for Viennese who are seeking some relaxation and wish to spend time outdoors in a magnificent setting. We'll also visit the opulent rooms inside the palace, including the great gallery, pictured below.





# Day 7: Benedictine Monastery at Melk



As impressive as Vienna and its cultural offerings might be, Austria has more to offer than just its capital city. The baroque monastery at Melk will command our attention today.





# Day 8: Our Good- Bye to Vienna



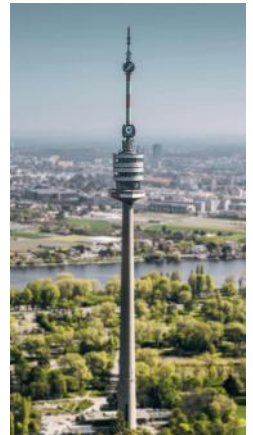
Egon Schiele (1890-1918), *Self Portrait with Lowered Head*, 1912. Oil on canvas, 42.2 cm x 33.7 cm.

Our final day in the Habsburg capital will first be spent in a visit to the Leopold Museum, which features an outstanding collection of Viennese art from the second half of the nineteenth century through the modernist era. The works contained here offer an excellent basis for understanding the interplay between life in Vienna around 1900 and

its expression in the art and culture of the period. Works of other renowned painters, such as Gustav Klimt and Oscar Kokoschka, as well as graphic designers, such as Koloman Moser and Alfred Roller, are valued items in the collection.



We'll conclude our stay in this Habsburg jewel by viewing the city from on high: first from the Danube Tower and then from the giant ferris wheel in the Prater amusement park, which has been a landmark of the city since its construction in 1897.



# Day 9: Return to Munich



Early Saturday morning we'll board a train for the return trip to Munich. Arriving in the Bavarian capital shortly after noon will allow us time to check into our hotel and then get a quick introduction to highlights of the city. We'll see the Church of Our Lady (long a landmark of the town) and the glockenspiel on the new town hall, among other sights. Naturally our visit wouldn't be complete without sampling some traditional Bavarian cooking.





The day will get off to an early start. After checking out of the hotel, we'll head to the Franz Josef Strauß International Airport for the return flight to the United States.

## Inbound Flight\*



Depart Franz Josef Strauß International Airport, Munich, Germany

Arrive The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

\*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.

## Nota Bene

All information contained in this brochure is provisional. While serious effort has been put into planning an itinerary that not only meets the educational objectives of this trip but also allows for the most efficient use of time and resources, circumstances beyond our control could occasion a rescheduling or an elimination of various items from the itinerary.

# Summary of the Itinerary

Date	Event
<b>Thu, Mar 13</b>	Departure from the U. S.
<b>Fri, Mar 14</b>	Arrival in Munich Transfer to Vienna
<b>Sat, Mar 15</b>	Walking tour of the Ringstraße Visit – the Museum of Vienna Concert – Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” in the Charles Church
<b>Sun, Mar 16</b>	Visits – Examples of the architecture and design of Otto Wagner Tour – Spooky Vienna
<b>Mon, Mar 17</b>	Visit – Albertina Visit – KunstHaus Vienna/Hundertwasser Museum
<b>Tue, Mar 18</b>	Visit – Art History Museum Visit – Furniture Museum Tour – Codename Vienna
<b>Wed, Mar 19</b>	Visit – the Augarten Porcelain Factory Visit – Schönbrunn Palace
<b>Thu, Mar 20</b>	Visit – the Benedictine Abbey at Melk
<b>Fri, Mar 21</b>	Visit – the Leopoldmuseum Visit – the Danube Tower Visit – the giant ferris wheel
<b>Sat, Mar 22</b>	Return to Munich Exploration of the city
<b>Sun, Mar 23</b>	Return to the U. S.



## SEEKING ART IN CENTRAL EUROPE (Imperial Capitals—Vienna) March 13 – March 23, 2025

### AMENITIES, COST, AND DEADLINES

*Seeking Art in Central Europe* is a nine-day (eleven-day, if flight days are included in the count) program that combines visits to museums and galleries in Vienna with time for drawing and painting works to add to the participant's portfolio.

A comprehensive price\* for the program includes the following amenities:

- ✂ Round-trip airfare between the United States and Europe
- ✂ Accommodations (multiple occupancy) and meals (meals directly or by stipend)
- ✂ All ground transportation
- ✂ All entrances, tours, and tips at museums and sights
- ✂ Professional artistic instruction and guidance

The cost of this program is **\$3,900**. Students currently enrolled in a school or college receive an automatic discount of **\$500**. Registrants who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations receive a discount of **\$200**. Students who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations may apply a combined discount of **\$700** to one art trip offered by the organization in 2025.

The deadline for registration and payment of fees for the trip to Vienna is **Tuesday, December 31, 2024**.

Details regarding fees and payment are listed on the "Registration and Payment" page of the site.

Questions may be directed to Magdeburg Explorations (<[info@magdeburgprep.org](mailto:info@magdeburgprep.org)>). Enrollment is limited, so early action is recommended.

\*Participants are responsible for expenses related to passports, travel to and from the departure and return airport, trip insurance (if desired), and personal items.



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